

The McGill Daily

September 14, 1998

Volume 88 Issue 3

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NDP VISIONARY, ALEXA McDONOUGH

The New NDP

BY JEFF WEBBER

A LEGITIMATE MOVE OR AN UNWARRANTED STEP TOWARD THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The federal New Democratic Party (NDP) discussed a new vision which would incorporate friendlier relations with the business community during the federal caucus's cross country train trek. The trip was essentially a means of the federal caucus to flesh out their ideas for the upcoming session in parliament.

Interspersed with summaries of the NDP's traditional values, party leader Alexa McDonough introduced a new set of controversial

ideas regarding a closer alliance with the business community.

"We must build partnerships with Canadians to make sure there are jobs today and for the future. As a nation, we must encourage small and medium sized business to grow and expand," McDonough said.

"Working in partnership with business, workers and non-profit organizations, we can make opportunities for youth by ensuring that every young Canadian is provided with the opportunity to accept one

of four options: secure a job, get further education, work experience or work training."

Criticism

Responding to criticism that the party's vision is excessively pro-business, Jill Marzetti, the Federal Secretary of the NDP, said "When you look at the role of business in our policy book, quite frankly we've taken a positive approach to business relations in the past. But basically it's always remained in the policy books. We haven't spoken about it before outside and so

people sometimes get worried when we start talking about our relationship towards business."

Marzetti argued that the cross country train trek had two basic objectives, the first being a short term plan to approach the upcoming session in parliament. As important, Marzetti stated, was the need to outline the NDP's long term position in the political arena.

What the NDP has determined is that "the two things Canadians care about most are job creation and health care." In response to these concerns the NDP proposes to use the "significant surplus to put \$2.5-billion back into health care to get it back close to what it was."

"The GST should be dropped by 1 percentage point."

But in an August news release, the focus of the new vision was less focused on job creation and health care, than on a "balanced approach" which explicitly rejected comprehensive new spending.

"Surpluses are not there just to be spent on new programs. After addressing immediate needs, we need a balance between new spending, tax fairness and debt repayment, in the order of 1/3, 1/3, 1/3," McDonough said. "Governments have neither unlimited resources nor unlimited obligations."

(continued on page 7)

The Crisis of Student Debt Continues

STATISTICS CANADA SHOWS FEES HAVE RISEN

BY HUGH ODLING-SMEE

Students returning to school face a significant increase in fees, a report by Statistics Canada has claimed. The report, published in August, shows that across Canada, fees have risen by as much as 7.4% for this year. Coming after the federal government's much heralded 'Education budget,' the fees hike has caused those involved in student representation to question the intentions of the federal government and finance minister, Paul Martin.

National chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, Elizabeth Carlyle, has said that '[s]tudents are reeling from continued fee increases, and they now know that Martin's so-called 'education budget' is completely ineffective for solving Canada's student debt crisis.'

The complex question of the student debt, and education funding in general, has been highlighted by the Statistics Canada report. The inconsistencies within the provinces means that some regions, such as Quebec and British

Columbia, are experiencing little or no increase while others in Ontario and elsewhere are facing as much as 61% increases in one calendar year. The effect of the hikes on the overall debt facing students upon graduation is, on average, \$25,000.

Reaction amongst McGill student bodies has been one of alarm, but tempered with a feeling of malaise. Bryan Chung, Executive Chairperson of the Post-Graduate Student Society, welcomed the report, but reinforced that the 7.4% national average only paints half the picture. "The figure shows what the situation is nationally, but in places like Ontario, the rise is actually 60% in some cases. The figure of 7.4% does not encapsulate the crisis facing students outside Quebec and British Columbia."

However, Chung does not believe that students in Quebec or B.C. will escape the economic vice simply by the grace of tuition freezes. He points to the increase in ancillary fees being a sign that McGill was having to find new

ways of funding its services.

"This is hitting students without them knowing. Paying for things such as athletics services and computer usage is indicative of the crisis within education, both in the provinces and on a national level. Rather than penalizing the student body, the university should be looking to increase its lobbying of the government in order to solve the deepening crisis facing both the students and society at large."

Chung continued, "We need a new system and quite frankly the education budget is obviously not working. The 'Millennium Scholarship' is a drop in the ocean and the prevailing wind is that of crisis. Education is about more than reading books. It's about the environment that you live in. Both the government and the university should be meeting the problem head on, and making a constructive contribution rather than simply seeing the students as the problem."

(continued on page 10)

CONTENTS

page 3:.....Comment: The Myth of the American Way

page 4-5:....Comment: UN Findings not so Rosy this Year

page 6-7:.....Montréal Mayoral Race
.....UVIC Sells Out
.....The New NDP continued

page 9:UVIC continued
.....News Briefs

page 10:..... RCMP Under Fire
..The Crisis of Student Debt

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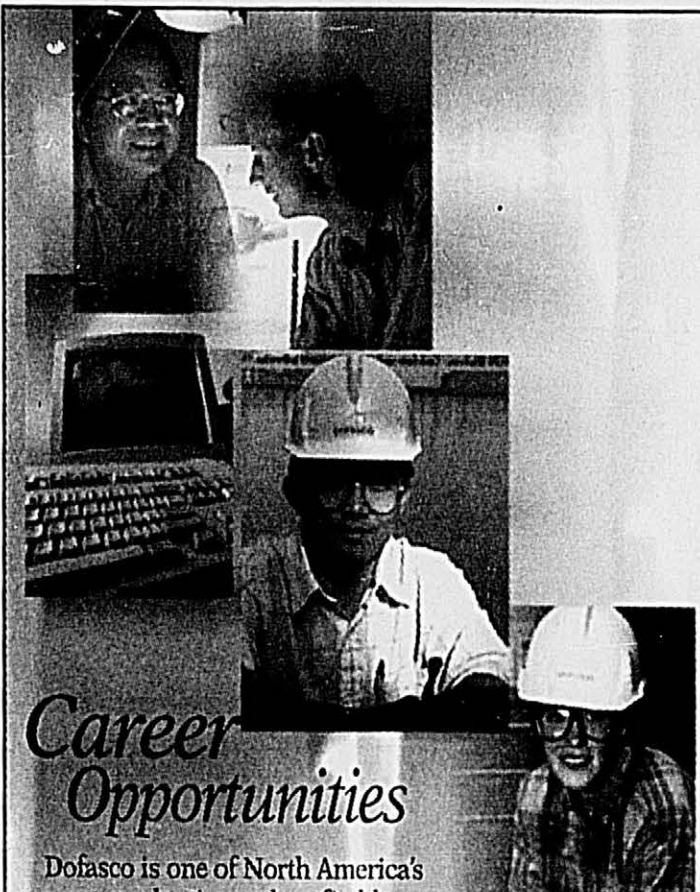
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The Myth of the American Way

BY BEN HARDY

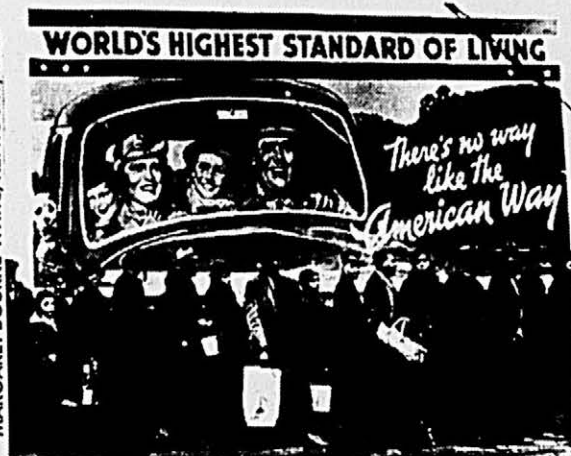
COMMENT

In these days of high unemployment, weak currency and a lagging economy, many Canadians, Canadian politicians in particular, have taken to glorifying the *laissez faire* fiscal and economic policy of the United States. True enough, to big business and wealthy individuals, the States may very well be the utopia it is made out to be, but the myth of recent US economic success has done little to benefit middle and lower class Americans. The disparity between rich and poor is greater than ever and millions of Americans cannot afford access to adequate health care and education. Low unemployment figures are due largely to new jobs in the low paying

service sector which offers little opportunity to advance, and also the large numbers of working-age Americans who are in prison (prisoners are not considered 'unemployed' in most statistics).

Through manipulation and half-truths big business and politicians have tried to convince Canadians that the programs of social democracy which have earned

rich, the *Globe* perpetuates the myth that the free market is the only way to insure excellence. Do they really expect us to believe that excellence for the lucky, and little or nothing for



AMERICA: A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT, A CAR IN EVERY GARAGE.

Canada that United Nations Best-Country-in-the-World-to-Live-In ranking (which these same politicians are so quick to gloat over) are in fact standing between us and glorious American style free market prosperity. As Canadian politicians have become consumed with deficit mania, spending on social programs has been slashed, forcing universities, hospitals and others providing social services to advocate varying degrees of privatization and/or deregulation. This threatens the security of the cherished Canadian health care and education systems, and the potential consequences are much more grave than many realize.

A series in the *Globe and Mail* this summer lamented the current state of Canadian medical research and gave a rosy portrayal of US research community as a utopia where researchers are able to pursue the latest and most advanced cures unfettered by a petty penny pinching government bureaucracy, and anyone with the means to pay can receive treatment without delay. However, the *Globe* ignores the painful reality that, according to some estimates, over 50 million people in the US, including many of those who need it most, have no opportunity to access any of these groundbreaking advances at all. By telling us the stories of a few sympathetic individuals who have faced delays in the Canadian system, who could receive treatment in the States if only they were fabulously

everyone else is actually preferable to pretty good care and access for all. The solution to making our care excellent is replenishing the cutbacks, not privatizing our system.

Likewise, University fees are rising across Canada, and many provinces and schools are moving towards privatization and deregulation. Lack of funding in Quebec has led to our own Principal Bernard Shapiro to raise the possibility of converting McGill to an elite Ivy League style private university. Even now, with student fees relatively low, there are real and significant barriers to many students trying to attend Canadian universities, yet in the US where private institutions dominate, many public universities cost upwards of US\$10,000 and private schools between US\$20-30,000 per year. Is this the sort of system that we want to move towards? As it is, student debt is far too high in Canada; the situation in the States where many students finish owing over US\$100,000 is unfathomable to many Canadians.

In fact, if the system hadn't been so devastated by cutbacks in the first place, health care and education would not be in such dire straights, but rather than doing anything concrete to address these issues the government offers us piece meal solutions like the Millennium scholarship fund, that only treat the symptoms rather than attacking the disease.

Erratum

The following people contributed to the September 10, 1998 Culture issue of the McGill Daily:

Dana Bibles, Duff Conacher, Marta Cooper, Miranda D'Arudini, Jonah Engle, Paul Reeve, Hugh Odling-Smee, Jan Schotte, Paul Sheridan, Neil Verma, Sonia Verma

The cover drawing of the September 10 issue was created by Miranda D'Arudini.

In Jeff Webber's book review of *Orientalism*, the third sentence of the second paragraph read "...the same theme is revisited without...". This should have read "...the same theme is revisited throughout,...".

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Letter to the Editor

Dear New Crop of McGill Daily Editors,

I write this short note with a belly full of shame in regards to your inaugural editorial statement, "Back to the Basement, in the Belly of the Beast." As yourselves, I am firmly entrenched in the publications forest at McGill and find your chest pounding and tub thumping both inspiring and laced with at least as much get-up-and-go as the first ten minutes of Patton. I was ready to rush out and protest for pay equity and demand advanced First Nations rights until it dawned on me that the McGill Daily is not the much feared beast with fangs dripping wisdom that it may have been twenty or thirty years ago. The reasons the Daily franchise faced criticism in the days of yore were due to its radical editorial mandate and provocative articles. Today it faces criticism because of the banal attempts of failed Peace Corps junkies who feel that writing about

whatever social cause they saw in the *Globe and Mail* and hiding behind the reputation of the Daily of old is good enough. SSMU and McGill hate you because you could be so much more. With a history this rich and autonomy to print whatever your minds can collectively fathom, is it too much to ask you to offer content that SSMU publications are unable to print. I would happily jump aboard if I didn't think your conservative ideas and hopeless direction would suck the marrow from my very bones. The rats left the Daily offices long ago and that isn't the wind you hear at night but Duncan Reid with a bowie knife clenched between his teeth, crawling through the air ducts of SSMU with your collective neck on his mind. Don't say I didn't warn you.

And may God have mercy on your souls.

Rich Retyi

Concordia Student Union Orientation '98

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HOWARD LYMAN - MON, SEPT 14 @ 7PM

THE MAN WHO INSPIRED OPRAH TO GIVE UP BURGERS, DISCUSSES THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAD COW DISEASE OUTBREAK IN NORTH AMERICA.

LINDA McQUAIG - TUES, SEPT 15 @ 7PM

BESTSELLING AUTHOR, LECTURES ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CORPORATE WELFARE BUMS AND THE ERADICATION OF CANADA'S SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

CAPT. PAUL WATSON - WED, SEPT 16 @ 6PM

FOUNDER OF GREENPEACE AND SEA SHEPHERD SOCIETY, THE PIONEER OF DIRECT ACTION ENVIRONMENTALISM, SPEAKS ON MARINE MAMMAL CONSERVATION.

MAUDE BARLOW - THURS, SEPT 17 @ 7PM

CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS AND ACCLAIMED AUTHOR, TALKS ON THE MAI AND THE THREAT IT POSES TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

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UN Findings not so Rosy for Canada this Year

URGENT POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

By JEFF WEBBER

COMMENT

Each year, federal Liberals commend themselves for their immaculate record in office after the annual United Nations (UN) announcement that Canada has placed first in the UN's quality-of-life rating.

This year the Liberals are once again basking in their status at the top, but despite the Liberal's rhetorical skills, it seems beneath the surface of number one, the quality-of-life for those Canadians outside the richest bracket is eroding at a dangerous rate.

So, while the Canadian government is looking more and more like the United States in its economic policies, Canada has drifted with France, another of the top countries overall in the UN human-development index, towards increased social inequality and greater environmental degradation.

While obviously possessing enviable living standards in the global context, Canada has not achieved this through Liberal policy. What the Liberals have contributed to in the last term and a half in office is what could be termed the dark side of the UN Development Program's (UNDP) report.

The report indicates that "Canada and France have significant problems of poverty, and their progress in human development has been poorly distributed." So times are not so good for those at the bottom end of the current Canadian distributive mechanism, that being the freer and freer market.

What has often been coined the trickle-down effect is offering less and less trickle as the market becomes freer, and what remains of our social security net is being riddled with holes.

Canada placed 10th out of 17 rich nations - ahead of the United States (17th), but be-

hind 9 other more progressive countries with Sweden resting at number one.

We might ask what is more important: that we have a country where the richest sector of society lives in the most comfortable manner in all of the world, or that all of our citizens share a relatively equal comfort level, one that would still remain collectively high? Unfortunately, the Liberal government's platform to date is bereft of any compassion for the plight of the poor.

Canadians should carefully examine what it means to be in the number one position in the current world order. According to the UN's report it means we're right up there in unnecessary consumption, that will inevitably lead to environmental meltdown if not curbed. The same report indicates that the richest 20 percent of the world is responsible for 86 percent of the spending that goes on.

In addition, the small percentage of people with all the world's money, spend twice as much on personal consumption as they did in 1975.

This is a large concern of the UNDP, as it is a serious and avoidable threat to environmental sustenance. "Today's consumption is undermining the environmental resource base," declared the UNDP. "It is exacerbating inequalities.... Consumption patterns today must be changed to advance human development tomorrow."

What is obvious amidst the complexities of international politics is that, with the present onset of globalization, the leading countries of today depend on the deplorable conditions of the countries with the worst quality-of-life rating.

With 20 percent doing 86 percent of the spending being



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in itself a threat to the current environmental situation, the rhetoric of leading nations helping poorer nations cannot be believed. There is no way that the leading nations would allow the other 80 percent of the world to enjoy the same sort of prosperity with the same sort of spending patterns, as it would suck dry all the available resources of the natural environment.

The problem that needs to be addressed, then, is the priorities of the leading nations. We need to curb our consumption patterns which would naturally lessen unnecessary consumption on the whole. Perhaps the wealth that exists could be partially distributed to those who need it to spend on essential goods, rather than excessive play products.

What the new UNDP report should be imposing upon us is the need to question the legitimacy of, first, our own government's priorities that are abetting inequalities in our own country, and, second, the legitimacy of the global trend to unrestrained liberalization. Both can only offer an unimaginable luxury to the top 20 percent and a robbery of the rest.

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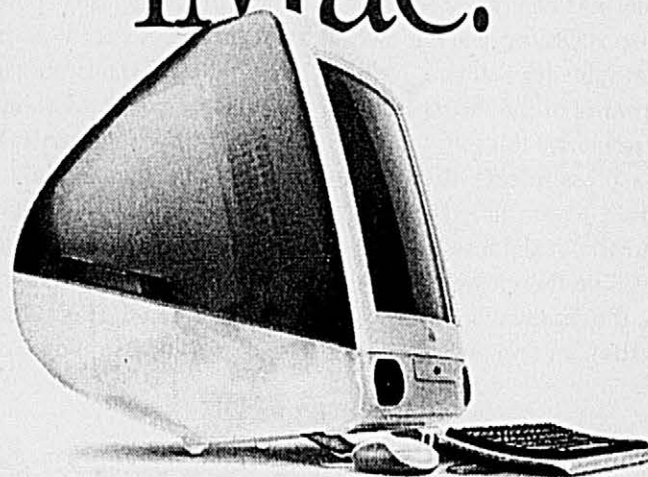
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Montréal Mayoral Race Includes

JASON CHOW

CANDIDATE GETS CREAMED AS RACE HE

Most of us tune out and ignore the petty squabbling of corrupt, sleazy, politicians and their rhetoric of broken promises.

But certain incidents force us to pay attention because it's just too funny not to.

On Tuesday, incumbent mayoral candidate Pierre Bourque was pried in the face by Québec's notorious group of pastry throwers, Les Entartistes. Cream was dripping from his mug as he was walking on Crescent St. on his way to a fashion show.

Les Entartistes are a political fringe group including François Gourd, a known member of the Rhinoceros Party. Their exploits are not unknown to Montréalers. They have successfully hit William Johnson, the recently elected leader of Alliance Québec, and narrowly missed Sylvester Stallone during the opening of the Planet Hollywood restaurant this July.

In a press release, they have promised to continue throwing pies until "real ideas are presented, like the closure of pan-shops, the legalization of squeegee kids, and especially no

Loblaws or new stadium."

The November 1 election has started out of the gates. Here is a synopsis of what has happened so far.

Who are the candidates?

There is a hot three-way rat race heralded title of Mayor of Montréal. The three main candidates for the mayoralty are the incumbent Pierre Bourque, former mayor Jean Doré, and former police chief Jacques Duchesneau.

Duchesneau is the current front-runner. He is a man who is already accustomed to the spotlight and controversy. As a MUC Police Chief, he was found guilty of abuse of power 17 years ago. Recently, he has said publicly that he would not give up his police pension if elected mayor, essentially promising to "double-dip".

As leader of the New Montréal Party, he has promised decentralization of power from the mayor's office to the councilors. He has also been a vocal supporter of the



PIERRE BOURQUE

Expos' downtown stadium project, promising to provide subsidies to Expos' owners after the construction of the proposed stadium.

Bourque has been at the helm since 1994 and is the leader of the

Vision Montréal party. His administration seemed in peril at the beginning of this year due to party squabbling and the resignation of many key members. However, over the summer, he has tried to rebuild his reputation with a massive poster campaign covering the city, reminding its citizens of its mayor and also by well-orchestrated publicity stunts such as his slipover in a Bangladeshi refugee's home in a poor Cote-des-Neiges neighbourhood.

Whatever he has done, it appears to have worked. Polls last year indicated that he would be destined to be voted out of office. Riding on a new confidence with new poll results placing him a close second behind Duchesneau, he has been promising tax freezes despite the recent financial crisis his administration has faced.

Former mayor Jean Doré is a close third behind Bourque. Headman of the Team Montréal party, he has been a mayor under the banner of the left-leaning Montreal Citizens' Movement. When serving as the mayor, he

sponsored major housing projects and established the city's first Urban Plan outlining development.

He has since changed his position on the political spectrum, promising tax cuts and the slimming of the city's bureaucracy.

Trailing a far distant fourth, the Citizens' Movement has presented Michel Prescott as their candidate for the election. Since 1982, he has been the councilor for the Jeanne-Mance district (which includes the McGill Ghetto). Like Duchesneau, he promises to decentralize power by giving more of a voice to the councilors. The party also holds the "objective of lowering taxes" in their party program, but fail to explain how that would be done.

Although young, the election campaign has been centered around two issues: tax cuts and the implantation of Loblaws in the Plateau.

Superstore in the Plateau

A prime example of the interaction between citizen action and municipal politics is the issue

University of Victoria Sells Out

PEPSI AND LOTTO 6/49 TO BE THE NEW FACES ON CAMPUS THIS FALL

By MARY VALLIS

VICTORIA (CUP)

Students and staff at the University of Victoria will soon find it hard to get a glass of Coca Cola on campus. In the latest chapter to the campus cola wars, the University of Victoria

has signed an exclusivity deal with PepsiCo., granting the company sole distribution rights of its cola, juices and bottled water on campus for the next ten years.

The deal brings the institution in line with other Canadian universities that have recently signed exclusivity deals with cola companies, including the University of British Columbia, McGill University and York University. More than 20 universities across Canada now have exclusivity deals with cola giants.

Just as in other cases, the deal

between the University of Victoria and Pepsi has raised questions about the trade-off between private financial support for the university in an age of declining government support, and the university's role as a commercial-free zone.

The deal means student groups will be encouraged to have Pepsi beverages at their events over other beverages because they'll be provided to them at no cost, says Jim Griffith, the university's acting executive director of student relations.

Morgan Stewart, finance director with the university's student society, disagrees. "There's nothing [in the contract] that says I have to encourage students to buy Pepsi," he said, adding he will readily discuss the deal with students in his office over a cold can of Safeway Select cola.

Griffith, who helped negotiate the contract, says it's a "strategic alliance" that benefits both Pepsi and the various campus groups, including the student society, which signed onto the deal. In exchange for giving

Pepsi access to a captive market of more than 15,000 students, the university gains valuable revenue earmarked for student activities like athletics.

Just how much revenue the new deal is expected to pull in for the university, however, is unknown, as all dollar figures are confidential under an airtight non-disclosure policy modeled after an exclusivity contract between the University of British Columbia and Coke.

The Ubysey, UBC's student newspaper, is set to challenge the non-disclosure clause in that contract in court next month.

Griffith says there's a clear rea-

son why cola companies pursue such deals.

"I think the thing that drives the soft drink companies is their ego," he said. "They want those [exclusive] rights. If they can train you to drink

Dr. Pepper for four years you'll probably drink it when you leave campus.

It's like they're buying into your future."

He maintains, however, that there's a limit to what deals the University of Victoria will sign. "The institution will not sacrifice its corporate identity or its academic credibility."

The university's student society has joined in on the trend toward

corporate partnerships. It signed onto the university's deal with Pepsi after abandoning its own deal with Coke six months early, a move that secured it a one-

time \$40,000 signing bonus.

The society and other campus groups were invited in on the deal by the university to help increase the campus' bargaining power when dealing with corporations. It was a move similar to last year's partnership between the student society and university administration to support the dairy company Dairyland, for all campus eateries.

"We're going into these deals because we want to enhance the opportunities of the students, because it's the student who's consuming," said Jeff Sims, who was hired by the university to develop revenue through the commercial sector.

Sims views the university as a charity and corporations as willing donors. "The bottom line is no one wants to pay higher taxes . . . yet we don't want to pay higher tuition [either]."

(continued on page 9)

s Crème de la Tarte

ATS UP

over Loblaw's plans to construct a superstore on abandoned railyards in the northern part of the Plateau on St. Gregoire between Christophe Colombe and Papineau.

Loblaw's has applied for a permit to build a massive centre that many residents fear will drive commerce away from the small proprietors and increase traffic in an area that is relatively quiet.

An organization of concerned citizens called La Groupe de Travail pour l'Amenagement des Terrains du Canadien Pacifique has been formed with the mandate to stop Loblaw's. They have been collecting signatures for a petition which they plan on presenting to city council on 14 September. As of early this week, they had already amassed 10 000 signatures including those of Duscheneau, Doré, and Prescott.

However, Bourque did not sign the petition and was criticized for indecision on the issue. He has continually said he would not approve of any large-surface store in the Plateau, but seems to lack the political will to back his statements with his signature.

(continued from front page)

Despite claims that the NDP has shifted their priorities radically, Hugh Blakeney, spokesperson for the federal NDP, said "There hasn't been a change in that the party hasn't taken a new track. We are simply concerned that we haven't reached out to small business in the past and we should be doing more." Blakeney was responding to criticism of the NDP for appointing a business critic.

Small Business

Blakeney argued that the business critic of the NDP is concerned with small and medium size businesses which is very different than the business critics of the other federal parties.

"A good example is the bank merger," Blakeney said. "The other business critics of other parties are non committal or in support, and we're against it."

But the stance of McDonough and the NDP has seemed to change quite dramatically over the last year. In a talk at

Tax Cuts

The issue of taxation has been full of the neo-conservative rhetoric that voters have been accustomed to as of late.

Doré, who ran up enormous deficits in the past, has promised a 10 per cent reduction in residential property taxes and has promised to reduce commercial taxes by an even greater margin. To recover the loss in revenue, he promised to slim the city's bureaucracy through attrition and by renegotiating with the province of Québec for greater concessions.

Both of the proposals have been criticized for being unsound. The union representing the city's civil servants has reported that Doré is basing his numbers on 600 employees retiring over the next four years — a figure that is completely unreasonable, according to union president Michel Vézina.

Also, Bourque promised the government of Québec that Montréal would not request for any more financing over the next three years. Any renegotiating is bound to be met by strong resistance among the provincial rulers.

Both Bourque and Duchesneau

have promised tax freezes. Bourque has promised a three-year freeze, financing it with the recent sale of the city's 36 per cent share in the Biodome, Botanical Gardens, and the Planetarium. Duchesneau has promised a four-year freeze, citing it was time that Montréalers are eased from the heavy tax burden that they have been subjected to.

Exercise Your Right!

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ers through excessive debt. Governments should, generally, balance their books over a four year parliamentary term." McDonough said.

The NDP's resolve to reach out to the business community included a declaration that government cannot create new jobs for Canadians alone. McDonough said,

"The NDP believes government must play an active role in economic growth and job creation. But government, alone, cannot produce the jobs Canadians desperately need. We acknowledge the extent to which business plays a crucial role in economic growth and job creation."

Responding to the Criticism

In response to a barrage of criticism by party faithful in the last few weeks, the NDP distributed a new statement entitled "New Directions, Same Values: Balanced priorities and Canada's NDP."

In the statement the party defends its new initiatives and claims "Media reports of these initiatives have been incomplete and sometimes inaccurate."

The statement emphasizes that, "If we are to grow and prosper in the uncertain global economy, our unique Canadian values must be maintained."

Clearly, the NDP is restating their commitment to some of their old values. But the statement qualifies this commitment stating, "And they [Canadian values] must be maintained within the fiscal realities of today's world."

The new statement provides the health care crisis and the NDP's stance on jobs as the primary foci, while business relations are downplayed and qualified as distinctly a relationship with small business.

"Canada's health care system is in crisis. The Liberal government has cut health care spending by billions of dollars. These cuts have closed hospitals and created long line-ups for necessary treatment. Some provinces started to privatize health care, creating a two-tier system.

Canadians are beginning to worry that quality health care won't be there when we need it."

It continues to say that because of the significant problems related to health care, the NDP would recommend spending a large chunk, \$2.5-billion, of the federal surplus on replenishing the health care system.

Similarly to their 1997 campaign, the NDP are maintaining that "With 1.4 million Canadians unemployed, the NDP continues to focus on the urgent need to create jobs." The difference in approach seems to be in the emphasis on how job growth will be created. "To stimulate job growth and provide tax relief to Canadians who have seen their salaries frozen or reduced, the NDP advocates a 1 point decrease in the GST - a tax cut that will create more private-sector jobs than any other proposal."

Indeed, the proposal for a reduction of 1 point in the GST existed in the 1997 policy book, however, Blakeney admitted that it wasn't discussed clearly, or evoked as a prominent part of the campaign by NDP candidates. Like the other federal parties, the NDP has shifted to ideas of tax reduction as a central form of job creation.

But what the NDP is working hard to clarify is that the party, "remains committed to its foundation of strong social values. It is essential that the NDP work in partnership with labour, business and non-profit organizations to protect and enhance our traditions of strong national standards. New directions and teamwork are the most effective ways to achieve these goals."

Looking to Europe

McDonough and Blakeney both discussed how much of the new policy is based on social democratic examples from Europe. McDonough says many of her ideas come from looking at the examples set by the Netherlands, where she says there is a cooperative basis through which labour, government, and business interact.

However, Blakeney admitted that the NDP is also looking at Tony Blair's English government as an example. Blair, however, has received much criticism by the left for differing little from the Tories that his New Labour government replaced.



ALEXIA McDONOUGH

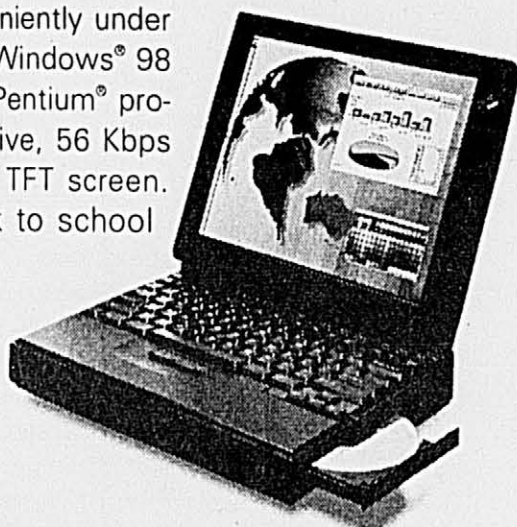
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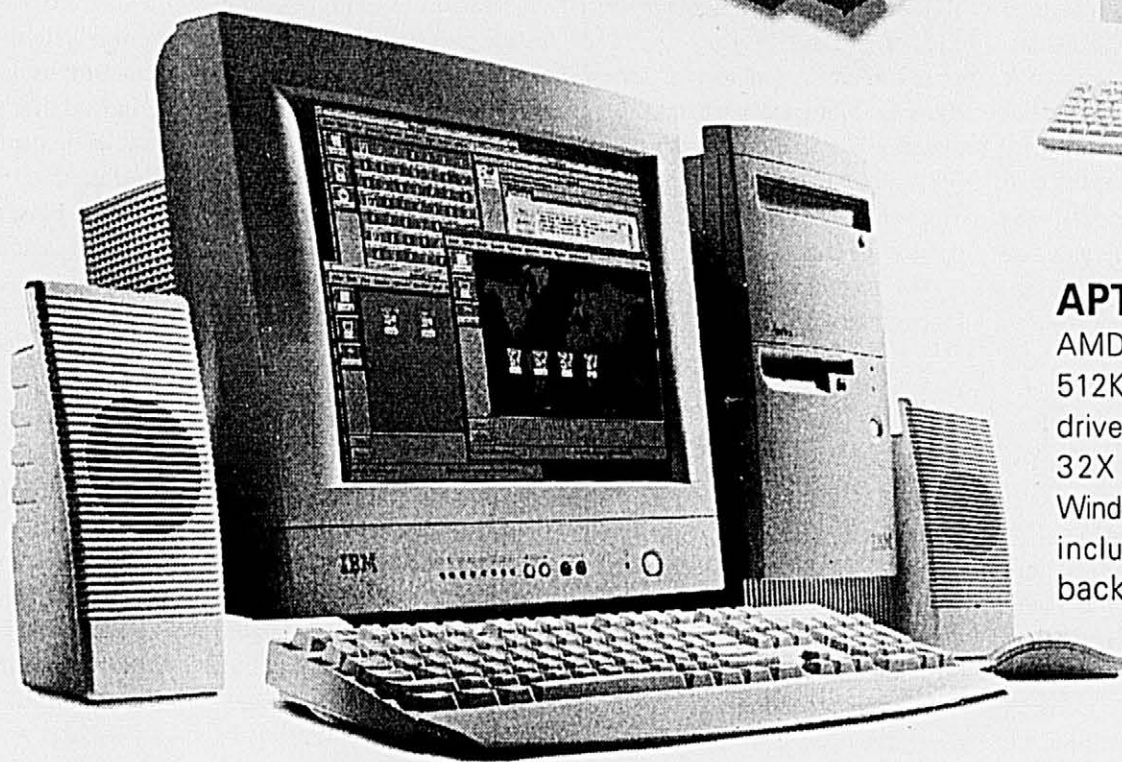
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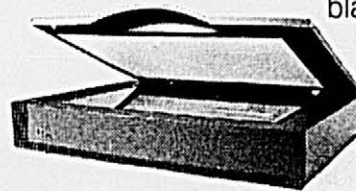


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UVIC Sells Out

(continued from page 6)

Meanwhile this summer, the student council, in conjunction with the alumni association, approved a motion to join in on a five-year exclusivity deal with the American-owned credit card company MBNA.

Under the deal, MBNA will be the only credit card vendor allowed to recruit students in the student union building this fall.

It also allows the student council to make money off of every new creditcard membership and each transaction made by a cardholder. That will likely amount to \$9,000 in revenue in the first year, Stewart says.

"[The deal] is a good way to make money off other people without doing a lot of work," said Anita Zaenker, director of services for the student council, when the deal was discussed in June.

Critics of that deal say in a time of rising student debt, inviting a credit card company onto campus spells trouble.

But Stewart says the deal doesn't encourage students to go into greater debt — it offers them a chance to develop a good credit rating instead. "I think people in this society need to have access to purchasing," he said.

"Student incomes are at a level where credit is a good thing to have."

The student society's deal with MBNA isn't the only contract it's signed recently. It also invited the B.C. Lottery Corp. into the student union building in its most contentious decision of the summer.

The society didn't receive a signing bonus for inviting in the Lotto 6/49 terminal and wasn't guaranteed revenue by the lottery corporation.

News Briefs

U of W paper prints amid disputes

Source: *The Manitoban*
By Gene Senior
WINNIPEG (CUP)

The University of Winnipeg's student newspaper, *The Uniter*, is publishing as normal this fall despite experiencing a labour dispute over the summer that almost shut it down.

Uniter staff were fired by the university's student association last May over allegations of fraud dating back several years. The dispute began when the association alleged the *Uniter's* business manager reported false publishing numbers to advertisers to increase revenue from ad sales — a practice that is illegal and considered fraudulent.

Unlike at some universities where student newspapers are financially and editorially autonomous from the student council, the U of W student association is responsible for all actions taken by the *Uniter*.

And although they have since been offered their jobs back, only three have accepted. Those who

declined are considering action against the association for wrongful dismissal.

A workgroup who investigated the problem recommended that only the former business manager should be held responsible for the illegal practice.

The student association agreed with the workgroup, and in a prepared statement, offered contracts to the fired staff. The new contracts were drawn to make it perfectly clear that all financial control of the paper was in the association's hands to prevent future irregularities from happening.

New fees at Concordia

Source: *The Link*
By Richard Sinclair
MONTREAL (CUP)

Concordia students will have to pay an additional \$12 per credit by January 2001 under a new plan by the university to deal with government funding cuts.

The university's board of governors has approved a six-point plan to deal with cuts introduced over the summer. Under the plan, all students will have to pay an additional \$6 per credit administrative fee beginning in January. That fee will rise to \$9 per credit in January 2000, and \$12 per credit in January 2001.

Full-time students, who now pay \$180 a year in administrative fees, will be paying close to \$400 in administrative fees in 2001.

David Smaller, president of Concordia's student union, says the new fee is unacceptable. "We have to pay user fees everywhere in the school and it's not fair," he said.

The fee hike also flies in the face of Quebec's tuition freeze for Quebec residents, Smaller said. "It is clear now that the tuition freeze is a fraud."

But university rector Frederick Lowy says the new fees are needed to protect the quality of education and maintain basic services.

The university has circumvented the tuition freeze by raising service

charges while leaving tuition rates untouched, he added.

"The Quebec government imposed the freeze for their own political reasons," Lowy said. "But it is our job to provide the best kind of education we can."

Concordia fees have risen by nearly \$500 since 1992, the university's

office of student accounts says. Yet the institution is \$35 million in debt and the operating budget for 1998-99 projects a deficit of more than \$5 million.

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To Serve and Protect Who?

RCMP UNDER FIRE FOR APEC SECURITY

VANCOUVER (CUP) High-ranking government officials, including Prime Minister Jean Chretien, directed RCMP officers to limit the level of protests during last year's meeting of 15 Pacific Rim leaders because they didn't want to embarrass then-Indonesian president Suharto, leaked internal documents suggest.

Students involved in RCMP Public Complaints Commission hearings investigating police actions during the APEC Summit say political interference hasn't ended. They say the inquiry has been skewed in favour of the Mounties from the start, and some say they will boycott

the proceedings when they officially begin today.

At a press conference last Wednesday, complainants sat next to 38 stacks of empty boxes, representative, they said, of their inability to mount an effective complaint against the RCMP. The two boxes of documents they do have access to have been heavily edited, they added.

"Every attempt has been blocked to make this a just inquiry," said complainant, Garth Mullins, who represents a group of 29 complainants. The documents do suggest, however, that federal officials tried to placate Indonesian delegates who were concerned demonstrators would

embarrass Suharto.

Notes from a meeting between Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas indicate Alatas was worried a poster campaign conducted by the East Timorese Alert Network would embarrass Suharto.

"If it caused concern to Canadian government because agitation of these groups could not be controlled and dignity of President was sullied, then President would rather not come to Canada," Alatas said, according to the notes. Then, "the Minister [Axworthy] said he apologized for the poster campaign," the notes read.

It also appears government officials gave direct orders to the RCMP to limit the visibility of demonstrators and protest signs.

In hand-written notes, RCMP Supt. Wayne May wrote, "Security perimeter will need to be adjusted at UBC re: protesters. PM specific wish that this is a retreat and leaders should not be distracted by demos, etc."

And in his hand-written notes, RCMP Insp. Perry Edwards cites comments from RCMP Supt. Trevor Thompsett regarding students who were camped out on the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation site at the University of British Columbia: "Trevor T, PM 'wants the tenters out.'"

Another RCMP officer, Staff Sgt. Peter Montague, wrote to the APEC security office to say he had personally assured the Indonesian delegation that Suharto wouldn't be embarrassed.

"I assured them that if

there was a demonstration on a major motorcade route, we would take an alternate route to avoid potential embarrassment," he wrote.

At least one Mountie expressed concerns about political interference in security operations, and wondered whether the RCMP had the authority to remove protest signs.

"Common sense tells us we do not want banners nor would the PMO's [prime minister's] office," Staff Sgt. Bill Dingwall, wrote in an e-mail to Thompsett. "Having said that, banners are not a security issue. They are a political issue."

This week, Chretien defended the security measures taken at the APEC meeting and insisted they were done to protect students.

In his memo, Montague wrote the Indonesian delegates planned to carry weapons and had inquired "what would happen to one of their [security officials] if he pulled his gun and shot someone during the visit?" Montague then wrote, "what would happen if one of their [security officials] grabbed somebody who came too close to the President?"

But Craig Jones, a law student who was arrested during the conference, doesn't accept the government's argument that it was concerned for the safety of students. He says the documents suggest Ottawa conspired to subvert people's constitutional right to freedom of expression.

"These are strong words, perhaps the strongest I've ever said, but they are apt," Jones said.

Still, Jones said he's "inclined" to go ahead with the commission hearings next week.

But Mullins and Alissa Westergard-Thorpe, say unless changes are made to ensure a fair and balanced hearing, most complainants will boycott the hearings next week, even though some members have been subpoenaed to appear.

They've been restricted access to documents, and haven't been free to summon government officials - including the prime minister, for the hearings, they say.

Last week, the federal government also denied legal funding to the complainants. The RCMP officers involved in the hearings are represented by eight publicly-funded lawyers.

In explaining his decision, Solicitor General Andy Scott said: "These [RCMP] members may be subject to disciplinary measures as a result of the proceedings. Complainants do not face similar potential consequences."

Lawyers for the group of 29 complainants had filed applications with the Federal Court to have the hearings adjourned, alleging the federal government has been involved in a cover-up.

But a Federal Court judge ruled last Thursday that the public inquiry will begin as scheduled on Monday, the *Globe and Mail* reports.



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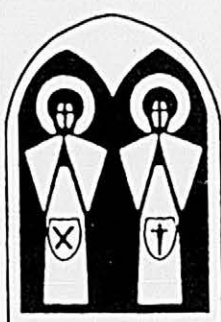
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(continued from front page)

This is a theme taken up by Jeff Feiner, SSMU VP External Affairs. "The SSMU is opposed to the tuition fees increase. We have a crisis in post-secondary education, and raising the fees is not the answer."

Feiner echoed Bryan Chung, in that he pointed to the need for a Pan-Canadian approach to solving the problems within education. "The SSMU is interested in what their members are thinking about in relation to the issue of fees, which is why we are planning a plebiscite in the late fall. We need to sound out the students in order to make sure our policies are in line with the prevalent thinking on campus. What we need from the government is a new approach. The situation of 52% of the education budget coming from federal re-

sources yet policy being dictated by the provinces is an anomaly that must be worked out. We need a flexible approach to the issue, or our education will continue to suffer."

When asked about the raising of ancillary fees, Feiner agreed, and highlighted a threat to student societies. "Budgets could be eaten away if the university decides to charge societies heating bills or other costs."

The university itself is worried about a pledge by the Québec Premier Lucien Bouchard that if the PQ wins the next election, the frozen tuition fees will remain in place. VP Administration and Finance Phyllis Heaphy was quoted in the *McGill Reporter* as saying, "My reaction is one of complete and utter dismay. If I had confidence that the government would increase (Quebec universities')

grants to make up for not increasing tuition fees, then I could accept it. But I don't have that confidence."

The tuition fees crisis, which was discussed in Thursday's issue of *The McGill Culture*, has been caused, according to the CFS, by an overall \$6.29 billion funding cut for post-secondary education and training. Elizabeth Carlyle states, "The Federal government has downloaded cuts onto those who can least afford them. Canadians know that we need access to post-secondary education for a healthy economy and society, and yet the federal government is rapidly moving towards a post-secondary education system that few can afford. Six months after the education budget, students are being turned away by ever-rising fees and massive debt."

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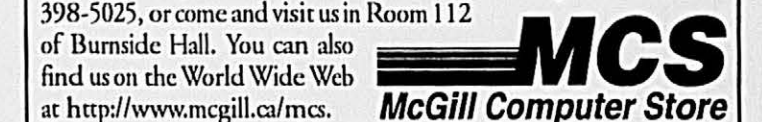
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